



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Michael P. Bowler, *Statewide Bar Counsel*

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Attorney Karyl L. Carrasquilla
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel
Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel
100 Washington Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Attorney Michael E Rizzo
Law Offices of Michael E. Rizzo
97 Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 351
North Haven, CT 06473

RE: Grievance Complaint #10-0058, Tara Ranciato v. Michael E. Rizzo

Dear Assistant Disciplinary Counsel and Respondent:

Pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(b), the undersigned, duly-appointed reviewing committee of the Statewide Grievance Committee, has reviewed the *Proposed Disposition Pursuant to Practice Book § 2-82(b)* (hereinafter "*Proposed Disposition*") filed August 11, 2010 and submitted for approval in the above referenced matter. After careful consideration of the *Proposed Disposition*, the *Affidavit* of the Respondent submitted pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(d) and the entire record of the complaint, and after conducting a hearing pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(b) on August 11, 2010, the undersigned hereby APPROVE the *Proposed Disposition*, a copy of which is attached hereto together with the *Affidavit* of the Respondent. Accordingly, the disposition agreed to by the Assistant Disciplinary Counsel and the Respondent in the above referenced matter and set forth in the *Proposed Disposition* is hereby made an order of this reviewing committee. The Respondent is reprimanded. The Respondent is ordered to attend in person and at his own expense a three credit continuing legal education ("CLE") course in Legal Ethics. Online courses and material only courses do not comply. The course is to be taken within six months of the approval of this *Proposed Disposition*. The Respondent is further ordered to provide the Statewide Grievance Committee with written confirmation of his compliance with this condition within thirty days of completion of the CLE course.

So ordered.

cc: Ms. Tara Ranciato
Attorney Frank B. Velardi, Jr.
Attorney J. Adrian Rebollo

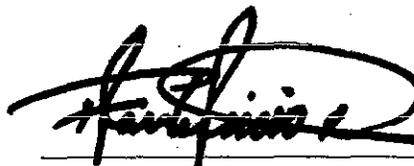
DECISION DATE: 10/15/10

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Decision

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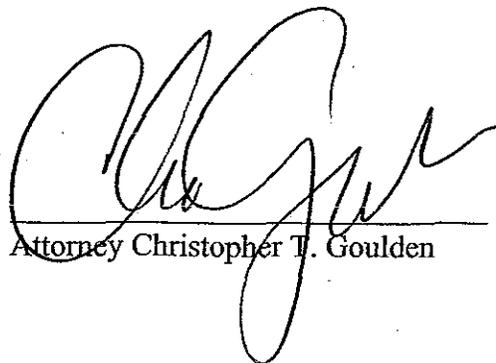
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank J. Riccio, II", written over a horizontal line.

Attorney Frank J. Riccio, II

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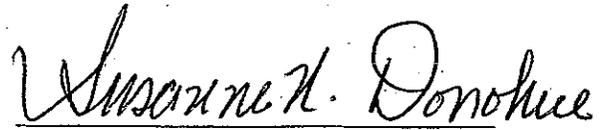


Attorney Christopher T. Goulden

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susanne N. Donohue". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ms. Susanne N. Donohue

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

TARA RANCIATO
Complainant

GRIEVANCE COMPLAINT #
10-0058

v.

MICHAEL RIZZO
Respondent

PROPOSED DISPOSITION PURSUANT TO PRACTICE BOOK § 2-82(b)

Pursuant to Practice Book § 2-82(b), and Practice Book § 2-82(a)(2), the undersigned Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel stipulate and agree as follows:

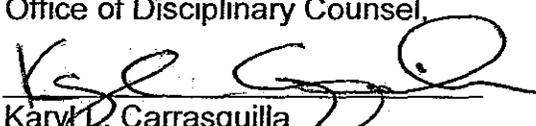
1. Michael Rizzo (hereinafter Respondent), juris number 410954, was admitted to the bar of the State of Connecticut on June 7, 1995 and has no history of discipline.
2. The Respondent has registered with the Statewide Grievance Committee for 2010 and is currently in good standing.
3. This matter was instituted by grievance complaint dated January 18, 2010.
4. On April 13, 2010, the Grievance Panel for the Judicial District of New Haven for G.A. 7 and the Towns of Branford, East Haven, Guilford, Madison and N. Branford found probable cause that the Respondent violated Rules 3.3(a)(1) Candor Toward the Tribunal; 3.4(1) Fairness to Opposing Party and Counsel; 4.2 Communication with Person Represented by Counsel; 4.4(a) Respect for Rights of Third Persons; and 8.4(4) Misconduct; of the Rules of Professional Conduct.
5. On June 9, 2010 Disciplinary Counsel requested Additional Probable Cause of a violation of Rule 8.1(1) Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters of the Rules of Professional Conduct.
6. On July 7, 2010 the reviewing committee of Noble Allen, Nancy Fraser and John Walsh reviewed the record and determined that there was additional probable cause that the Respondent violated Rule 8.1(1) of the Rules of Professional Conduct.
7. The Respondent has tendered an affidavit pursuant to Practice Book § 2-82(d)

attached hereto, and admits that there was improper communication by him with the Complainant who was represented by counsel in the underlying family matter and that this conduct violated Rule 4.2 of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

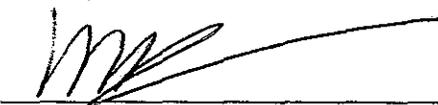
8. The Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel agree that the Respondent will be reprimanded pursuant to Practice Book §2-37(a).
9. The Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel agree that the Respondent will attend in-person and at his own expense a three credit continuing legal education ("CLE") course in Legal Ethics. Online courses and materials only courses do not comply. The course is to be taken within six months of the approval of this proposed agreement. The Respondent will provide the Statewide Grievance Committee and Disciplinary Counsel with written confirmation of his compliance with this condition within 30 days of completion of the CLE course.
10. The Respondent further understands that his failure to comply with all of the terms of this condition will result in the filing of a presentment pursuant to Practice Book § 2-37(c).
11. The Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel agree that Disciplinary Counsel will recommend that the Statewide Grievance Committee impose the sanction set forth in this agreement. If this agreement is rejected by the Statewide Grievance Committee, Disciplinary Counsel will pursue this matter at a contested hearing.

WHEREFORE, this matter is submitted to the Statewide Grievance Committee for its approval in accordance with Practice Book § 2-82(b).

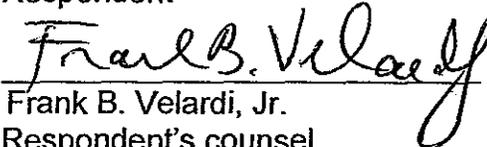
8-11-10
Date

Office of Disciplinary Counsel,
By: 
Karyl D. Carrasquilla
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

8/11/10
Date


Michael Rizzo
Respondent

8-11-10
Date

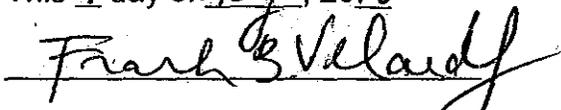

Frank B. Velardi, Jr.
Respondent's counsel

7. I agree to a reprimand pursuant to Practice Book § 2-37(a).
8. I agree to attend in person and at my own expense a continuing legal education ("CLE") course in Legal Ethics. Online courses and materials only courses do not comply. The CLE course is to consist of a minimum of three credit hours, and is to be taken within six months of the approval of this proposed agreement. I understand and agree that it is my obligation to provide the Statewide Grievance Committee and Disciplinary Counsel with written confirmation of my compliance with this condition within 30 days of completion of the CLE course.
9. I understand that Disciplinary Counsel will recommend that this matter be resolved by the imposition of the sanction set forth in the Proposed Disposition. If this agreement is rejected by the Statewide Grievance Committee, Disciplinary Counsel will pursue this matter at a contested hearing.
10. I further understand that my failure to comply with all of the terms and conditions stated herein will result in a presentment.


Michael Rizzo

Subscribed and sworn to before me

This 11th day of Aug, 2010


Notary Public/Commissioner of the Superior Court